



Patriot Day

UDAF employees break for a moment of silence in commemoration of September 11, 2001. Utah State building flags were lowered to half-staff for 24 hours to signal the one-year anniversary of the attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. Commissioner Peterson, Deputy Commissioner Stephens and Public Information Officer, Larry Lewis led the ceremony which included the pledge of allegiance, led by second grade students from Backman Elementary School.



Annual Report Goes Digital

The 2002 Utah Agricultural Statistics and Department Annual Report is being published in two formats this year—the traditional hard copy and a second version on CD ROM. The CD disk contains identical text and pictures as the printed version, but it also allows readers to click on Internet links to access more information about timely and important issues.

Using technology to improve communications with the public and the agricultural industry is one of several goals outlined in Commissioner Peterson's and Governor Leavitt's 1000-day plan.

The annual reports are available in the public information office.

UTAH AG NEWS

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Utah Among 37 States To Receive Share of \$752 Million In Livestock Drought Aid

Sign Up Begins Oct. 1

Utah beef and dairy cow producers, as well as owners of sheep, goat, buffalo and beefalo who suffered losses due to drought are eligible for immediate compensation from the newly created Livestock Compensation Program. Livestock owners are encouraged to contact their local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to sign up for the program. Payments are expected as soon as the FSA can process the applications.

"This is exactly the kind of help Utah cattle and sheep producers have been seeking," said Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Cary G. Peterson.

Utah is among seven states where the cash assistance will be made available statewide. Qualifying counties in another 30 states are also eligible for the payments.

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced on September 19, that approximately \$750 million is being made available for the new Livestock Compensation Program. The program is limited to livestock producers in counties that have received primary disaster designation due to drought in 2001 and/or 2002. Utah Governor, Mike Leavitt, and Secretary Veneman announced earlier this year that Utah's severe drought, as well as a cricket and grasshopper infestation, high winds, hail, and frost have qualified Utah farmers and ranchers for state and federal disaster designations. Only qualified livestock owners may participate in the Livestock Compensation Program.

Sign up will begin Oct. 1 with payments made soon thereafter.

"This program will provide immediate assistance to producers who need it the most," said Veneman. "The Bush Administration continues to use every available tool to provide disaster assistance to America's farmers and ranchers who have been struck by severe drought conditions. This program will particularly help livestock producers who have very few risk management tools available to help during these difficult times."

Veneman said that the cash assistance will be made available statewide in Arizona, Montana, Nebraska, New

Mexico, North Dakota, South Carolina and Utah. Assistance will also be available in specified counties in 30 other drought affected states including California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming.

The funding for the program will come from Section 32, a permanent appropriation, that since 1935 has earmarked the equivalent of 30 percent of annual customs receipts to support the U.S. agriculture sector. Payments will be based on standard feed consumption data for each eligible type of livestock. The payment rate is \$18 per animal consuming unit, which is indexed against beef cattle. Types of livestock adjusted by these factors are: Beef Cows \$18.00/head; Dairy Cows \$31.50/head; Stockers \$13.50/head; Buffalo and Beefalo \$18.00/head; Sheep \$4.50/head.

The program is in addition to other programs available to eligible producers that to date total \$1.3 billion. On Aug. 12, Secretary Veneman authorized a \$150 million feed assistance program to help cow-calf operators in Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota. On Sept. 9, Veneman authorized emergency haying and grazing on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres nationally to provide relief for farmers and ranchers, which is valued at \$100 million. USDA has provided some \$54 million for the Emergency Conservation Program to help producers rehabilitate farmlands damaged by natural disasters. The Federal Crop Insurance program provides indemnities for production and revenue losses; and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, which provides financial assistance to eligible producers affected by natural disasters, is expected to provide \$250 million.

For more information about this program and other drought and weather-related information, visit USDA's website at <http://www.usda.gov>.



How To Apply For Livestock Compensation

The USDA FSA is working to create computer software to process the thousands of anticipated applications for the \$752 million in livestock assistance. Until the software is created, each local county FSA office will take manual applications. FSA-553 is the application form. Signup for LCP will begin October 1, 2002, and will continue until an ending date is announced.

Eligible Counties

All Utah counties are eligible.

Eligible Livestock

The following are eligible livestock: beef cattle; dairy cattle; buffalo and beefalo when maintained on the same basis as beef cattle; sheep; goats.

Livestock Eligibility Requirements

Livestock must have been owned for a minimum of 90 calendar days. Livestock must have been owned on June 1, 2002.

Ineligible Livestock

Swine; equine animals; poultry; packer owner; livestock kept for recreation or for use in recreational activities or recreational business, even if they are also maintained for use in a controlled breeding program; all beef and dairy cattle, buffalo and beefalo that weigh less than 500 pounds.

The FSA says this program is a high priority for them and they are working "full tilt" to get the funds to Utah livestock owners. Contact Brenda Harmer, FSA Program Specialist, at (801) 524-4533 to be put in touch with your local FSA representative.

The FSA reports that the \$752 million is the largest amount of money ever offered for livestock assistance. \$268 million was offered in 1998; \$188 was offered in 1999; and \$427 million in 2000.

More information is available at: www.fsa.usda.gov/ut/ or www.usda.gov/, or www.ag.utah.gov/